

MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2017

Members Present: Cynthia DeAngelis, Kerrie Fallon, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire, Karen Mathiasen, Michael Rademacher, Beverley, Bevilacqua, Liza Molina

Members Absent: Susan Tenant

Others Present: Darcy Devney, Disability Advocate
Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Discussion Regarding the Retreat of May 17, 2017:

Cynthia DeAngelis said that there needs to be more structure in setting goals. The True Story Theatre recommended that at least three members of the Commission bring forward a mini proposal when setting goals. At the retreat the following issues were raised. Kerrie Fallon mentioned her concern that not all door openings are wide enough, not less than 32"; Kerrie also recommended having more interactive events at Town Day, and that the Commission should hold an annual retreat. Liza Molina said that she feels that the Arlington Center for the Arts does not show an interest in individuals that are differently abled. Paul Czech said that he would like to see more awareness regarding hearing awareness; Jack Jones said that he would like to see more of a commitment to universal design in businesses and in housing. Jack said that most of the housing in Arlington was built prior to developers considering the need of disabled and elderly individuals. Mike Rademacher said that often there exists a challenge of competing interests between the ADA and other wants. Mike said that in these cases the ADA should always win out. Cynthia DeAngelis and Susan James said that more attention needs to be given to assist individuals facing mental health challenges.

Discussion to Cancel the July 2017 Monthly Meeting:

Cynthia DeAngelis made a motion seconded by Susan James to cancel the July meeting. SO VOTED Maureen St. Hilaire suggested that a subcommittee meeting be held in place of the July meeting to begin planning for Town Day.

Variance Request for Learn to Grow, 93 Broadway:

Jack Jones said the variance is being requested because the elevator will not be installed by what Learn to Grow hopes to be the opening of business on July 1, 2017 at their newly completed building at 93 Broadway. Jack was told that the elevator will be installed within three to six weeks from the date they hope to open. The reason the elevator will not be operational on July 1, 2017 is because the parts to construct the elevator arrived late. Learn to Grow would have considered a delay in opening at their new building but they had to be out of the Gibbs School where they were located by June 30, 2017 in order for construction to begin at the Gibbs. Therefore they are requesting a variance from the Mass. Architectural Board to be allowed to open prior to the elevator being operational. The Commission decided without having additional information such as if there are any mobility impaired individuals that will be

using the building on July 1, 2017 and if so what if any accommodations would be made for them. The Commission decided that without more information they could not make a decision as to whether to support the variance request.

Outdoor Dining:

Jack Jones said that he received several requests this year for outdoor dining. Jack said that next year restaurants that want outdoor dining will be required to submit their requests earlier than has been the case in the past. Michael Rademacher mentioned a concern regarding outdoor dining is that a 48" path of travel be maintained with 36" path being allowed for only short distances such as around hydrants and utility poles. Jack said that several individuals from the Town including himself and Michael Rademacher have monitored the path of travel at Broadway Plaza, with the concern as to how to keep at least a 48" clear path of travel. The outcome of the review was that next summer a plan will be developed that will ensure that a 48" path is always maintained.

Town Day:

Jack said that Town Day is scheduled for September 16th. The following Commission members agreed to serve on a Town Day sub-committee Karen Mathiasen, Maureen St. Hilaire as Chair, Liza Molina, and Cynthia DE Angelis. Maureen is planning to hold the first meeting of the sub-committee on Wednesday July 19th. Cynthia has agreed to make arrangements again this year with the Educational Puppet Troupe Kids on the Block.

Other Business:

Parking Implementation Government Group will receive from parking meters in Arlington Center approximately \$150,000.00 per year, that will be used for improvements in Arlington Center. Michael Rademacher and Darcy Devney said that a member from the Commission should be included on the ten member Parking Implementation Government Group. Cynthia DE Angelis and Darcy agreed to send a letter to the Town Manager / Selectmen requesting that a member of the Commission be considered for placement on the group.

Darcy Devney asked what should the handicapped parking spaces on the Town's GIS map be referred to handicapped, accessible, disability plates or another designation. Karen Mathiasen recommended calling the spaces handicapped accessible spaces. The Commission suggested that these spaces be colored blue with the international symbol for disabled being placed on the map below where the map is colored blue.

Jack Jones said that Jenny Raitt, Planning Director will attend a future Commission meeting to discuss a grant that the Town will receive for \$75,000.00 to update its Transition Plan.

Darcy Devney said that some of the Handicapped Parking spaces agreed to by the Town have not been installed. Darcy asked if she would need to complete an audit and provide a list to Public Works. Michael Rademacher said that Public Works has a master list and will install the remaining h/p spaces.

Jack Jones said that he had received a complaint regarding the audible signal at Mass. Ave. and Mystic St not working properly. Michael said that he would look into this matter but felt the audible signal at this location were working properly.

Darcy Devney said the medical building on Mill St. has 111 parking spaces and that 10% of those spaces being part of a medical building should be H/P but currently only 2 spaces are H/P. Darcy said that she would continue to look into this situation. Darcy also recommended that the Commission request funds from violations of H/P.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.